IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

SUBMISSION OF INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

BOX: PCT (DO/EO/US)
Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D. C. 20231

Sir:

Submitted herewith is an Information Disclosure Statement prepared by the applicant with regard to the above-identified application. The references cited on the attached Form PTO-1449, copies of which are attached to the Information Disclosure Statement, are the closest prior art of which the applicant is aware.

The relevancies of the European reference and the WIPO publication are believed to be quite clear from the Abstract and drawings in each. There is no English translation of the cited French reference available to applicant, but it is believed that the relevancy thereof is clear from the drawings therein. Additionally, attached hereto is a copy of the International Search Report issued in the corresponding PCT application, i.e. PCT/EP98/06984, and it will be seen therefrom that all of said references were cited in the Search Report under Category A only, i.e. documents defining the general state of the art which are

9-5-00 Linda Bi not considered to be of particular relevance.

Accordingly, no further comment in regard to the disclosures of these references is believed to be required.

Respectfully submitted,

GRIFFIN, BUTLER, WHISENHUNT & SZIPL, LLP

WHISENHUM, Fred S. Reg. No. 24,378

GRIFFIN, BUTLER, WHISENHUNT & SZIPL, LLP Suite PH-1 2300 Ninth Street, South Arlington, VA 22204

Telephone: (703) 979-5700 Facsimile: (703) 979-7429

Customer No.: 113

430 Rec'd PCT/PTO 24591 MAR 20001

Form PTO-1449 (Rev. 7-80) LIST OF REFERENCES CITED BY APPLICANT (Use several sheets if necessary)			epartment of Commerce and Trademark Office	ATTY. DOCKET NO.: SAIC-159		09/509045		
(Use several sneets if necessary)				APPLICANT: Luca TONCELLI				
				FILING DATE: GROUP:				
			U.S. PATEN	T DOCUMENTS				
*EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER DATE		NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE (IF APPROPRIATE)	
	AA							
	AB							
	AC							
	AD							
	AE							
. <u></u>	AF							
	AG							
	AH							
	AI						· · · · · ·	
•	ΑJ							
<u>,</u>	AK							
			FOREIGN PAT	ENT DOCUMENTS	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·			
		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLAS	S SUBCLASS		
	AL	0 786 325	July 30, 1997	EP		_	YES	NO
			Dec. 21, 1967	FR		_	· ·	xxx
	AM	1,496,341					<u> </u>	
	AN	92/10349	June 25, 1992	WO			-	
	AO							
	AP							
		OTHER REFEREN	NCES (Including Author	, Title, Date, Pertiner	nt Pages,	Etc.)		
	AR							
	AS							

Examiner Date considered

AT

* Examiner: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

U.S. COMM-DC 80-3985